



Alabama Geologist

A Publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists

Volume 1 Issue 8

December 2001

“Why Be Licensed”

Where Do You Stand?

Over the past several years we have heard the comment: “Why do I need to be licensed?” This is an important question for many geologists. First, if you do public geology in the state of Alabama you must be licensed. You are responsible for your work. Secondly: By holding a practice license from the State of Alabama you are identified as having minimum technical qualifications to serve the public.

Some years ago most geologists worked in mining, petroleum or academia. However, the world of professional geology continues to undergo radical changes so that today a large majority of geologists work outside those areas and in positions where their work is open and publically scrutinized. Registration by a state, like it or not, is here to stay as the public demands credibility before the citizens. Contrary to some arguments that registration or licensure restricts “trade, i.e. geological work”, it also opens the door to a large number of qualified geologists to act in capacities that serve the public’s best interest.

Registration or licensing acts set minimum standards of education and practical experience for an individual seeking acceptance before the public court. Registration or licensing does not guarantee equal competence. Competence and peer recognition must be earned. For a large number of geologists who compete in the environmental arena working side by side with our civil engineer colleagues, licensure is one mechanism which allows geologists to be accorded the same recognition (legal, professional and public) as other licensed professionals.

To this end, all licensed geologists should strive to promote their professional and encourage licensure by qualified individuals. Most registration or licensure acts require a minimum of 5 years of practical supervised work after a Bachelor’s Degree. (Usually some allowances are given for advanced degrees.) Most licensure or registration boards encourage young geologist to work under the tutelage of a senior geologist, preferably at a Geologists-in-Training (GIT) level during their early years. The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists wants to encourage

all young geologists to apply for GIT status. By having a GIT certificate it demonstrates to the client and the public that you are a professional. Consider then – what are your goals in the geologic career? A job? A profession? If you only consider your geologic job, a job, that is all it will ever be – a job! You will surely burn out, become dissatisfied, and change careers. You probably will not accomplish much nor contribute much to your colleagues or your employer. On the other hand if you consider your geology career a profession then it is time to join the profession: be active in geologic groups, contribute your expertise and knowledge to your colleagues, promote your profession. Most important to all geologists is to protect our profession from being hijacked by others who consider themselves “more professional” Where do you stand?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 17, 2002	Board Meeting, Montgomery, Alabama
March 6 – 9, 2002	Karst Frontiers in Gainesville, Florida
March 10-13, 2002	AAPG Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas
March 21, 2002	Board Meeting, Montgomery, Alabama
March 24-27, 2002	SEPM Research Conference on Aquifer Heterogeneity, Charleston, South Carolina
March 25-27, 2002	GSA-NE Sectional meeting, Springfield, Massachusetts
April 3-5, 2002	GSA SE-Ncentral Sectional meeting, Lexington, Kentucky
April 11-12, 2002	GSA Scentral Sectional meeting, Alpine, Texas

For a complete calendar of Continuing Education Events please see www.calendar.agiweb.org. For Board Meeting and Examination dates please see www.algeobd.state.al.us.

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Term Expires: September 30, 2003

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Continuing Education

The Board continues to receive requests for information concerning the acceptability of activities for continuing education credit. Some important points to remember are as follows. The Board appreciates the fact that many professional geologists work in places where continuing education experiences are not easily attained. In such cases, the board takes a very lenient stance. There are exceptions to every rule. Secondly, your particular area of employment will be taken into consideration when claimed continuing education activities are reviewed. Sometimes activities that do not appear at first glance to be acceptable are perfectly legitimate when put into the context of the geologist's specialization or job requirements. We are currently evaluating the effective use of on-line continuing education activities and welcome input. If you are aware of on-line short courses that garner CEU's, PDH's, are simply accepted by other boards, or simply look worthwhile please let us know the details. Communication is all important. If you have questions, contact a member of the Board or leave a voice message with Warren and Associates and someone will get back with you. Finally Dr. Robert Cook, who has handled continuing education issues since the Board's inception, has completed the maximum allowable two consecutive three-year terms and has been replaced by Dr. Mark Steltenpohl of Auburn University.

Congratulations to those that passed the ASBOG Exam in 2001!

Fundamentals of Geology

Rhonda A. Capes

Douglas E. Reymann

Melissa Batumbamberg

Paula J. Engelhardt

David B. Markham

James C. Redwine

Russell V. Richmond

Blake Snodsmith

William J. Warren, Jr.

Practice of Geology

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Blake Snodsmith

Russell V. Richmond

Melissa Batumbamberg

David B. Markham

Expired Licenses

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Expiration</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Expiration</i>
Absher	Sarah Reid	June 30, 2001	Lawrence	Edmond F.	June 30, 2001
Alexander	Michael M.	June 30, 2001	Levine	Jeffrey R.	October 30, 2001
Anderson	W. Stephen	November 30, 2001	Lewis	Robert A.	April 30, 2000
Aserlind	Eric	December 30, 2000	Lovingood	Daniel A.	August 30, 2001
Bain	Margaret C.	July 30, 2001	Lukasiewicz	Kathy	June 30, 2001
Bass	Robert W.	March 30, 2001	Marr	Thomas	July 30, 2001
Behrens	Wm. Kerry	August 30, 2001	McCormick	Thomas M.	July 30, 2001
Benoit	Andrew T.	July 30, 2001	Meintzer	Robert E.	August 30, 2001
Bentkowski	J. E.	June 30, 2001	Messer	James R.	March 30, 2001
Blackledge	Krista Dawn	September 30, 2000	Moore	Paul Clay	June 30, 2001
Blais	Richard N.	December 30, 2000	Morrissey, Jr.	Thomas H.	June 30, 2001
Borchert	Susanne M.	June 30, 2001	Murdy	Bill H.	July 30, 2001
Boyd	Oliver R.	June 30, 2001	Murphy	Stephen J.	April 30, 2001
Brett	Dr. C. Everett	June 30, 2001	Nale	John M.	June 30, 2001
Bunn	David W.	November 30, 2001	Nelson	Ken	April 30, 2001
Burkart	John T.	June 30, 2001	Nolen	Tony E.	November 30, 2001
Burt	Paul R.	January 30, 2001	Novak	Bonnie J.	July 30, 2001
Caldwell	Brian E.	April 30, 2001	Oglesby	Randy	June 30, 2001
Camp	Brett S.	June 30, 2001	Owen	G.M.	January 30, 2001
Carl	Joseph B.	June 30, 2001	Patton	Abner F.	April 30, 2001
Carr	Martha K.	May 30, 2001	Paylor	Randall	September 30, 2001
Carter	Stephanie A.	September 30, 2001	Pearce	Philip C.	August 30, 2001
Chadeayne	William F.	October 30, 2001	Peterson	Mark A.	May 30, 2001
Chioke	Uche	September 30, 2001	Pitts	Mary Wallace	June 30, 2001
Clark	Andrew	August 30, 2001	Rainey	William B.	June 30, 2001
Coney	Charles V.	June 30, 2001	Raymond	Walter B.	June 30, 2001
Cook, Jr.	Philip L.	September 30, 2000	Riddle	Timothy L.	May 30, 2001
Corson	Gregory B.	March 30, 2001	Roberts	Gregg H.	October 30, 2000
Cunningham	Kenneth A.	August 30, 2001	Robertson	Jay M.	October 30, 2001
Davidson	Scott A.	July 30, 2001	Robinson	Ronald L.	August 30, 2001
DeGrosky	Kevin O.	June 30, 2001	Rudat	Juhani H.	August 30, 2001
Demirpolat	Suley	November 30, 2000	Sanders	Richard P.	November 30, 2001
Dickey, III	Rufus L.	March 30, 2001	Schindel	Geary M.	August 30, 2001
Drake	Kerry D.	June 30, 2001	Seiler	Timothy J.	May 30, 2001
Dufresne	Douglas Paul	June 30, 2001	Self	Gregory A.	June 30, 2001
Eddington	Todd	October 30, 2001	Seyfried	Mark S.	April 30, 2001
Eichler	Gary E.	May 30, 2001	Shannon	Leslie Bell	June 30, 2001
Enright	Robert V.	September 30, 2001	Simms	John T.	June 30, 2001
Eto	Joe N.	August 30, 2001	Smith	George T.	June 30, 2001
Files, Jr.	Edgar J.	November 30, 2001	Smith	Patrick G.	April 30, 2000
Flynt	Edward R.	June 30, 2001	Smith	Marcia Johnson	April 30, 2000
Frings	David M.	June 30, 2001	Solt	Eric M.	June 30, 2001
Gagnon, Jr.	Dennis P.	October 30, 2001	Sprague	Charles W.	June 30, 2001
Gartner	Mark K.	June 30, 2001	Stephenson	L. Gregory	July 30, 2001
Gazzier	Conrad A.	July 30, 2001	Strickland	Justin E.	June 30, 2001
Gentile	Leo F.	July 30, 2001	Sumartojo, Ph.D.	Jo	March 30, 2001
Gillespie	Robert H.	September 30, 2001	Syfrett	Stephen S.	August 30, 2001
Goodrich	David M.	December 30, 2000	Szabo	Michael W.	April 30, 2001
Gurr	Theodore M.	September 30, 2001	Taylor	Jerry W.	June 30, 2001
Guthrie	Gregory M.	July 30, 2001	Thompson	Patricia	June 30, 2001
Harden	John	September 30, 2001	Tompa	Bradley Steven	June 30, 2001
Hedberg	William H.	June 30, 2001	Troiano	Wm. Cory	May 30, 2001
Hegeman	Terry L.	June 30, 2001	Wakeley	Lillian D.	June 30, 2001
Hellmich	Ralph G.	May 30, 2001	Walker	J. David	July 30, 2001
Herd	Leslie L.	April 30, 2001	Watson	Thomas W.	July 30, 2001
Hirsch	James D.	April 30, 2001	Webb	John W.	June 30, 2001
Hopper, Jr.	J. Thad	August 30, 2001	Weidner, Jr.	Earnest A.	September 30, 2001
Humphris	David D.	March 30, 2001	White	Daniel J.	September 30, 2001
Jacob	Karen J.	July 30, 2001	Whitfield	Allison	August 30, 2001
Johnson	Michael F.	May 30, 2001	Wilbarger	Heidi S.	June 30, 2001
Jolly	John D.	March 30, 2001	Wiley	Wesley F.	October 30, 2001
Kaub, II	Frederick G.	June 30, 2001	Williams	John E.	June 30, 2001
King	C. Creed	June 30, 2001	Witt	Gerhardt M.	June 30, 2001
Klicman	Douglas P.	March 30, 2001	Workman	Edmand Boyd	December 30, 2000
Knight, Jr.	Louis L.	October 30, 2000	Wyatt	Barry W.	June 30, 2001
Lafrenz	W. Bruce	June 30, 2001	Gutierrez	Alberto A.	May 7, 2001
Land	Robert	February 28, 2001			

From the Industry

The Alabama Geologist Licensure Act of 1995 requires seven board members. Per the Act, each board member represents different conceptual areas of the geologic profession. One of these areas is the business side of geology; one might say this is the commercial, industrial, or even the economic geology board position. This board member represents those members of the geologic profession that work for corporations and industries within the state of Alabama. The geologist that works within a company or industry but whose work is completely internal, and who does not work in any fashion for the public is not required to be licensed by the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologist [ABLPG]. Some geologists within industry do work strictly on internal matters. Other geologists, however, work on projects in which their professional work relates, directly or indirectly, to projects that touch the public and are required to be licensed by the ABLPG.

What does this group of geologists do? Much of the work done is either natural resource related and/or environmental related. Some geologists work within large companies with major mineral resources, i.e., coal or petroleum. Other geologists work with the environmental and/or engineering and construction aspects of geology as it relates to a company's mineral, mining, and environmental responsibilities to the public.

A different but growing area of the "industry" geologist is the so-called Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst. Many companies and industries are utilizing their geologists to accurately convert their geologic records into a digital format to utilize the power of computers, relational database managers, and GIS software to better analyze geologic and geographic data. There is of course, intrinsic considerable overlap in this regard, between geology, geography, and computers. Computers and the software that make the computers perform have become very user friendly and are often considered an outright necessity for efficient resource management.

What are these industries and their geologists doing with their old paper maps and geologic data? Much of it is being entered either into spreadsheet formats or into GIS or database management systems. Much of this "entering" of data is done either by manually entering data or by scanning maps and using software to interpolate and rectify data. It

is encouraging to note that there are now multiple sources of public and private geologic data for oil, gas, and coalbed methane production and other general geologic information. Though there are now many sources of pre-constructed geologic data available from the public domain, and public utility companies, there remains tremendous amounts of Alabama geologic data that are proprietary. Many companies located within Alabama are now converting proprietary data into a digital format to more easily utilize the power of the computer to find and develop more mineral resources or to accurately determine the amount of mineral depletion for proper accounting or for further geologic studies. These natural resource companies in Alabama have tremendous amounts of proprietary geologic information including extremely detailed geologic outcrop maps of coal seams, iron resources, mine maps and various other geologic resources generated from the data of outcrops, mine data, and from boreholes, coreholes, and "diamond drill holes". These companies are beginning to scan their maps and to rectify those maps into digital format for use with GIS to find more resources or to exploit the resources that are available but not previously recognized.

The power of the personal computer and workstations along with geologic and geographic software is allowing geologists to work with geologic data in ways almost unimaginable just a few years ago. Geologic and GIS software help the industrial geologist to utilize multiple sources of geologic data to reveal to the geologist new areas of mineral resources or delineate environmental conditions or problems or to map areas in new ways. The future applications of GIS software in the management of geologic data are unlimited.

Mark A Chapman
Geologist - ABLPG #0005

[These are areas of the profession that I am most frequently concerned with at my place of employment. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at mchapman1@uss.com.]

(Mark Chapman, the ABLPG business board member, has served on the ABLPG since its inception in 1995).

The Alabama Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) invites all professional geologists in Alabama to attend their meetings. The Alabama Section emphasizes Professionalism in Geology and Professional Ethics. The mission of the Section is to enhance the recognition and service of all geologists who serve the public welfare. The primary purpose of AIPG is to strengthen geological science as a profession. AIPG remains dedicated to communicating to the public and to its representatives, the importance to society of the profession of geology. The Institute promotes ethical conduct and seeks to protect the public and the geological sciences from unprofessional practice.

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) is a society representing the professional interests of practicing geologists. Formed in 1963, the organization now

represents 4500 active and 500 retired members drawn from all areas of geologic practice - petroleum, mining, groundwater, environmental, and engineering geology. AIPG establishes qualifications for granting of the title, "Certified Professional Geologist", and certifies to the public that those geologists who hold this title have undergone peer review and have been deemed competent practitioners who are worthy of public trust. The Alabama Section of AIPG is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama and currently numbers about 40 members. Membership is open to geologic professionals, students and associate persons interested in geology.

For additional information contact the Secretary at TLNEATHERY@PRODIGY.NET or telephone 205-553-5466.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The address and telephone number for the Board office is changing effective January 1, 2002. The physical address, which was in the last newsletter, will be 610 S. McDonough Street. Post Office Box 175 will be closed and all mail should be sent to the street address. The telephone number will change to 334-269-9990. You can reach Keith Warren, Executive Secretary at ext. 12, Eric Sloan, Executive Assistant at ext. 10 or Arwen Freeman, Receptionist at ext. 0. We are making these changes to help eliminate any delay in correspondence and phone messages. We apologize for any delays in responding to you but we anticipate that this will high improve and correct these problems.

Proposed Rule and Regulation Changes

The Board has diligently worked on revisions to the Rules and Regulations to do some housekeeping and to better define geology. A copy of these revisions is available on the web site at www.algeobd.state.al.us or you can obtain a hard copy of this document from the Board office, 334-269-9990, ext. 12. After you review these revisions, please submit all comments in writing by mail, fax or email (ALGEOBD@aol.com). Please do not hesitate to contact a Board member or me should you have any questions.

Board Meeting Schedule

January 17, 2002

March 21, 2001

May 23, 2002

July 18, 2002

September 19, 2002

November 14, 2002

Executive Secretary Notes

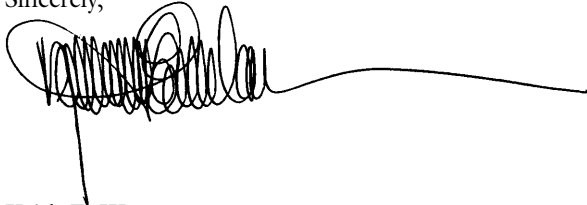
The Sunset Legislation, which recommended continuing the Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists, was passed in the 2001 Regular Legislative Session. The two findings that Mr. Neathery explained in the last newsletter are being corrected in the revisions in the Rules and Regulations that are mentioned in this newsletter. I strongly urge you to review the revisions before they the final adoption is done at the January 17, 2002 Board meeting. It is better to understand and possibly comment on a change before it is approved and not after the fact.

I have just received notice that we have two new Board members to represent the Academia and Business Professional Geologists. Mr. Ben Noble replaces Mr. Mark Chapman and Dr. Mark Steltenpohl replaces Dr. Bob Cook. Both Dr. Cook and Mr. Chapman have served the Board, the profession, and the citizens of the State of Alabama to the best of their ability, with hard work, honesty and integrity. They will be presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service as Board members since 1995.

We constantly are updating the web site to assist you in obtaining information from the Board instantly. The web site has a new icon "Expired Licensees" that only lists the licensees that are expired. This list will be updated on a monthly basis to ensure no one is listed incorrectly as expired. We are currently working to have all the licensees available in a directory with all licensees, active or expired. Your continued patience in this process is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Eric Sloan, me if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Keith E. Warren

Alabama Geologist

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